

Appl. No. 10/694,421
Amdt dated 04/23/2005
Reply to Office Action of 12/23/2004

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends Claims 2-4 and 6-14 and cancels Claims 1 and 5. Claims 6 and 7 are now independent claims, with Claims 2-4 and 12-14 depending from Claim 6 and Claims 8-11 depending from Claims 6 or 7. Claims 9 and 10 were amended to remove multiple dependencies.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-9 and 11-14 contained allowable subject matter. It is submitted that the foregoing amendment places Claims 2-9 and 11-14 in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,186,871 to Crocker et al. ("Crocker") in view of USPN 5,464,361 to Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki"). The Examiner admitted that Crocker does not describe applying an adhesive to a circumferential periphery of a fiber except for the end face that is to be processed. However, the Examiner alleged that Suzuki describes this element. The cited section of Suzuki describes that "a predetermined amount of adhesive layer 7 can always be applied in such a manner as to cover the fiber on the end surface of the ferrule." Suzuki teaches away from Claim 10 because Suzuki describes that the adhesive covers the end face, whereas Claim 10 requires that the adhesive be applied to circumferential periphery of the fiber, but not to the end face. Thus, Claim 10 is patentable over the cited references.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Brenda Holmes at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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